

A JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS, THROUGH EGYPT, NUBIA, ARABIA PETREA, PALESTINE, AND SYRIA. By Viscount Castlereagh. 2 vols. Colburn.

Little apology was necessary for the publication of these volumes. Though the route which Lord Castlereagh traversed is hackneyed, and though the countries he describes are more familiar to British readers than many of their own counties, there are a heartiness in his impressions which lead the reader onward and make him "pleased he knows not why and cares not wherefore." The antiquities of Egypt have been described until we are better acquainted with them than with the wonders of Stonehenge, or even Westminster Abbey; Mohammed Ali is a more intimate acquaintance of ours than Sir Robert Peel or Lord John Russell; we know more of Cairo than of Limehouse, and could draw a better map of the Lower Nile than of the Upper Thames. The road from Cairo to Suez—thanks to the overland mail—has little more of novelty than that between Paddington and the Bank; while the Desert between the Red Sea and the Syrian frontier has become, in the repetitions of the literary traveller, almost as wearisome to us as it was to the Children of Israel, with this addition, that every modern repetition reflects for us more of the prose of fraud and less of the poetry of force. Romance is destroyed and criticism wears out. There is "nothing new under the sun," since novelty has become rare even from the "children of the sun," with whom "revenge," to some extent is still "virtue." Lord Castlereagh, as we have said, is a pleasant and intelligent companion, with many agreeable qualities of head and of heart. We need desire no more pleasing associate in the tour from Alexandria to Damascus, had we to make the journey in sober reality—not on paper. But his travel's "history" wants the charm which gave interest to Othello's recital of his adventures. We have "the antres vast and deserts idle"—are introduced for the thousandth time to "rough quarries, rocks, and hills whose heads touch heaven;"—but there are no longer "anthropophagi, and men whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders." Instead of these, we have fraudulent officials, extortionate guides, cheating escorts, and dishonest providers of conveyance—all of whom we could match without going beyond the precincts of Europe, or Britain. It is not, however, Lord Castlereagh's fault that he has brought us but a limited stock of knowledge; for he sought adventure with all the ardour of a Paladin.

And if a path was dangerous shown,  
The danger's self was sure alone.

Commercial exigencies have cast their spell on Egypt and Syria. Eastern originality has succumbed in the strife; and all that we can now hope to have is the remnant of real barbarism struggling against the advance of pretended civilization. Lord Castlereagh has seized on some of the picturesque aspects presented by this blending of Western forms with Eastern substances; and not the least amusing is his account of the first view of the hotel at Cairo.

"Such a scene I never saw as the inn-yard. Imagine a small court containing a half-starved ostrich, looking like a spectre, a monkey, a lynx, donkeys innumerable, camels, dromedaries, Arabs, couriers, dragomen, waiting to be hired; and in the midst of all, various specimens of the John Bull tribe, starting for India by way of Suez, in Mackintoshes, straw hats, pea-jackets, and every variety of costume. I must not forget a very of ladies in green veils and poke bonnets, waiting to be shut into boxes like diminutive sedans, to be jolted across the Suez desert, or looking in utter despair at the broken-down donkeys on which they were to trust themselves, if they preferred a quadruped to a packing case. In spite of all the noise, crowds, and scramble, we found capital rooms and good accommodations for this country, where, in general, you have four walls, a stone floor, and a divan as your stock of furniture."

The Fatimite Khalifs and the Mamlook Sultans might well be disturbed in their tombs by the influence which Infidels have obtained in their favourite city. The sciences of the Franks are taught in their *medresches*, and the arts of the Nazarene practised under the shade of their mosques. Their very amusements are proscribed—the Almei are banished to remote districts; and the ascetic founder of the Druses, who declared that the dancing girls were too powerful for his institutions, could hardly have inflicted on them greater degradation than that which they now endure. Lord Castlereagh saw the miserable remnant of this class, which once figured as an estate of the realm, in their place of banishment at Esne.

"Here we saw the Almei, or dancing girls, who have been banished from Cairo by the Pacha. Then were collected in a dirty hut, smoking, and drinking brandy made from dates, and did not appear to be anxious to exhibit their art, until made aware that we were ready to pay for the sight. However, upon this explanation, an old hag who was squatting down near the door, busily occupied in grinding coffee, produced a drum, or *tombom*, and the ladies, fitting on some metal castanets, began to execute the measure, which is as different as it is possible to conceive from European dancing. The feet have little or nothing to do, and while the performers are shuffling round and round, apparently upon the same place, the body is thrown into attitudes which show off the flexibility of the frame, but certainly are neither decorous nor picturesque. I cannot say much for the beauty of any of the party, and when the novelty of the exhibition was over it was not worth a repetition."

The dances of the Derwishes, which were set down as wonders so lately as the days of Baron de Tott, are now mere exhibitions of disgusting fanaticism, unredeemed by one particle of the faith which once sustained them.

they were in a perfect frenzy, foaming like maniacs, and roaring and gesticulating in frantic chorus. There was a dim light in the mosque, from two wretched torches; the moonbeams also fell upon the ruins behind the dancers, and rendered the scene more spectral. It was like the chorus of fiends in "Robert le Diable," and it seemed as though the huge mummies would burst their cerements, and join in the unhallowed rites. The music, however, was certainly not Meyerbeer's. The bright stars gleaming above us, and the shadowy outlines of the gigantic columns, increased the stage effect and finished the picture."

But if the usages of ancient simplicity disappear, those of modern artifice flourish. Lord Castlereagh doubtfully gives an account of a trick played upon him; which we insert without the doubt—because we happen to know that the artifice has since been successfully repeated.

"We were about to depart, the great man signified his wish that I would accept a beautiful giraffe which was at my service, and insisted upon my taking her off to Cairo. In spite of the trouble, expense, and inconvenience, I found I could not well refuse, and was obliged to hire a boat and people to take charge of the costly present. I was more easily disencumbered than I expected, for after we had left Sidout about an hour, we were hailed by some people on the bank who had pursued us. Their errand was to explain that the animal had been duly deposited in the boat we had hired, and carefully released so as to prevent her struggling to release herself; yet, in spite of all precautions, she had broken the cords, and after nearly upsetting the craft, had plunged into the river, and was never seen afterwards. Whether the tale was true or not it is not for me to say; it seemed rather unlikely that so large an animal should have so suddenly disappeared, and I am not at all sure that she was not conducted back to her paddock, as soon as the donor saw we were safely under weigh. The object of the present was accomplished, the civility was shown, the servants received presents, and the Rais and boatmen were paid. So when nothing more was to be got, perhaps it was of the same opinion, and never cared to investigate the transaction further."

Lord Castlereagh gives an amusing account of the mode in which the Turkish tradesmen of Cairo transact their business:

"I went with Sir G. Wilkinson to order some clothes from a venerable Turk named Hafiz, whom we found smoking at the bazaar in placid repose, and every now and then caressing his beard, or speaking to a passing acquaintance. We were invited to sit down, and he handed his pipe to Ismael Effendi, by which name Sir Gardner Wilkinson is known here. My business was explained to him, after which he rose, put his feet into his papooses, tucked up his long caftan, and departed, but he soon returned, bringing with him another Turk. At least a quarter of an hour was spent by them in animated discussion. The second Turk then left us, and, after a long time, returned with a small piece of cloth. New discussion arose, and fresh pipes were called for, with coffee and sherbet. Then there was some talk to buy. Hafiz got into his papooses again. Another quarter of an hour elapsed, and then a new consultation began. Then came the measuring, and a great row arose upon a declaration from Turk No. 2, that he wished to see a part of my dress as a pattern. We tried to get him to terms without this, but in vain. After two weary hours, we had only succeeded in buying the silk and cloth, and left Hafiz, promising to revisit him another time. This is an exact and faithful picture of the dealings and business of this country. The merchant goes through the form of pipes, coffee, and rignarole with you, but then you must wait, while he proceeds to another stall, where he gets a pipe, and more rignaroles, and if he returns again to you, the same farce is repeated, so that the whole affair of cloth, silks, buttons, lining, lace, measuring, fixing, time and fashion, may occupy half a day, and yet the work may be unfinished. Dawdling through life is their passion; and as great a discussion is made about a para or two, more or less, in their price, as we should make about ten pounds. If you want a sword, you must first buy the blade; the handle is sold by one man, and ornamented by another, a third polishes and cleans it, a fourth makes the scabbard, a fifth the bed or cord, and so on; thus the business becomes endless. The dealers have no idea of time, and had rather not dispose of their wares at all than sell them without the whole ceremony of talk, smoke, and coffee."

An illustration of the difficulties which foreigners have to encounter in the service of a reforming prince who rules over barbarians deserves to be recorded:

"An English engineer was employed in mining for coal in Syria. The mine was profitable, but some one or other of the officials suggested that the Englishman did not get coal as fast, or in such large quantities, as the natives could if they were allowed to try. Permission was granted, and the engineer went off. He returned again, and in two or three days, with very little labour, produced five times as much coal as the Englishman had; this was reckoned an immense triumph; but one fine morning the whole excavation fell in and buried the workmen. What was the fact? The engineer, as he undermined, had left large pillars of coal to support the earth above, which the Turks immediately knocked down, and the prize served to fill their baskets on the first days of their supposed triumph. The catastrophe, however, would, one should have supposed, have been a lesson to them. No such thing. 'It was the will of God!' So they killed the goose that laid the golden eggs; but the moral of the tale was thrown away."

Like most modern travellers, Lord Castlereagh laments the overthrow of the severe but orderly rule of Mohammed Ali in Syria and Palestine. The Sultan has no control over the mercenary troops which he employs; but as he is held responsible for their excesses, the chances of a new Syrian war are continually on the cards.

"Beirut is occupied by 600 Albanians, who are to be reinforced by many more; they are ungovernable and without discipline, eager to be turned loose upon the country, for which purpose they have been brought, and longing for the opportunity of committing excesses, which no one has the power to check. This desperate band has been sent by the Sultan, with the view of keeping in check the mountaineers of the Lebanon."

MORE GOLD.—The *Skowhegan Press*, in Somerset County, Me. says: "It has been the current report about town for the week past, that a gold mine has been discovered in the town of Bingham in this county."

and to confirm his power in Syria and this will not be done without fearful extremes, as the population are armed, and will not submit without a fight. The Albanians, when let loose upon a country, leave nothing behind them but death and destruction. Even the Turks have little control over them, an instance of which occurred lately, when an Albanian soldier insulted a Frenchman, who could get no redress. The consul appealed to Mustapha Pacha, but in vain, at last he struck his flag, ordered four ships of war, which were anchored at Beirut, to place themselves opposite the walls, and declared that if the man was not given up, the city should be blown to atoms. The matches were lighted, and all was ready, when, at the eleventh hour, Mustapha Pacha gave in. But it was only with the greatest difficulty they could punish the Albanian, for the Turks, were afraid of irritating his comrades; and nothing but the certainty of the consul's threat being carried into effect, induced them to comply with his desire: since this has occurred, there has been less insult shown to Franks."

Further reasons to doubt the policy which gave Syria back to the Sultan, and forcibly destroyed the system of government introduced under the auspices of the Egyptian Pacha, were found at Jerusalem.

"The localities of Jerusalem under the new regime are by no means safe. The people here, as in Syria, are all armed, thanks to our policy, and now that they find the Sultan as hard, if not a worse master than Ibrahim Pacha, they feel quite ready to use them at any moment, and should there be any outbreak, they will not be so easily subdued as in their former defenceless state. The Sultan, who for the first year pretended to exact less than Mehmet Ali, has now called upon the people to pay in the same ratio that they did under the Pacha, and, moreover, to pay up the arrears, which he had not claimed on the first arrangement. Thus, they have now to pay two years of the same tax they had before, and find themselves only transferred from one despotism to another, with the additional disadvantage that, while under the Pacha there was something like order and government, now every one must protect himself and take his chance." Similar observations were made at Damascus.

The bazaars are tenanted by lazy and impudent shopkeepers, who, because Damascus is considered a holy city, and that only for the last few years Franks have been tolerated there, treat them with contempt, and think it a favour to allow them to purchase. This was not so in Mehmet Ali's day. When the Egyptians were masters of Damascus, every European had not only toleration but protection, and the people of the town were obliged to keep terms with the despised stranger. Now fanaticism has kindled its torch once more, and as the policy of the Porte has been weak enough to allow, if not to encourage, this regenerated animosity, the Ulemas, or heads of sects and tribes in Damascus, by every means in their power, daily inflame the people that they cannot hate or deride us too much. This would appear extraordinary after all that England did for the Turks in Syria; but the latter declare, and with some colour of justice, that England was paid, and well paid for the work upon which the Sultan employed her, and that the decorations and diamonds, the muskets and ammunition, for which they are to reimburse England, are a perfect set-off against any exertion of ours. In short, we are represented to the lower classes as hired auxiliaries, too happy to do the Sultan's will if we are paid for it. Nothing is so lamentable as the gross and barbarous ignorance prevailing here. The people are actually told that the Sultan appoints the King of England, and that he is the slave and servant of the Porte!

There is so much of good feeling and good fellowship in these volumes that criticism is disarmed. Lord Castlereagh, as we have said, is only a gleaner—but then, the harvest had been gathered, a picker up of "unconsidered trifles"—where little more had been left to his hand. It is true that beneath the awakening soil of the East there lie mines for the moralist as well as for the geologist to explore—and that even now, where the ground is partially broken up, their quality may be seen and their direction indicated. If Lord Castlereagh be not the observer for this kind of work, neither has he here come forward with the scientific pretension.

THE ABSENCE OF POTASH IN FOOD A CAUSE OF SCURVY.—Dr. Garrod has arrived at the following conclusions respecting the relation of scurvy to particular articles of food:

"Finding that all the theories of scurvy hitherto advanced were imperfect, I was led to examine more minutely the composition of food under the use of which scurvy was capable of occurring, and also of such substances as had been proved beyond doubt to be anti-scurvitic, and afterwards to seek for the absence or deficiency of certain normal substances in the blood; and from such examinations I was led to the following conclusions:—1. That in all scorbutic diets, potash exists in much smaller quantities than in those which are capable of maintaining health. 2. That all substances proved to act as anti-scurvitics contain a large amount of potash. 3. That in scurvy the blood is deficient in potash, and the amount of that substance thrown out by the kidneys less than that which occurs in health. 4. That scorbutic patients will recover when potash is added to their food, the other constituents remaining as before, both in quantity and without the use of succulent vegetables or milk. 5. That the theory which ascribes the cause of scurvy to a deficiency of potash in the food, is also capable of rationally explaining many symptoms of that disease."

CATLIN, THE ARTIST.—We have been shown a letter written by GEORGE CATLIN, Esq. the artist, who is now in London, stating that the Russian Government has made proposals to him for the purchase of his *Indian Collection*, and the price specified by the artist is \$75,000. The same collection, however, having been offered to the Congress of the United States for \$50,000, Mr. Catlin does not feel at liberty to accept the foreign proposition until he has received an answer from his own Government.—*National Intelligencer*.

MORE GOLD.—The *Skowhegan Press*, in Somerset County, Me. says: "It has been the current report about town for the week past, that a gold mine has been discovered in the town of Bingham in this county."

## THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, JUNE 9.

It affords us great pleasure to acknowledge our obligations to Mons. Dillon, Consul of France, for communicating many items of interest received by him from France and South America, by the Don Quixote.

Among the last of the official acts of General Cavaignac, was the communication to the National Assembly of the ratification of the Treaty between France and this Kingdom.

The Don Quixote being the first vessel under Hawaiian colors that had appeared in European waters, awakened the most intense interest and excitement. Conjecture was rife among all whose eyes beheld the new symbol of nationality, in regard to whence the stranger came. Was it the ensign of newly revolutionized Prussia? Or had the mighty Empire of Great Britain, after having sustained as a monarchy the shock of centuries, from the time of the great Alfred, been shattered by the dashing waves of popular commotion, in the noon-tide of the 19th century? Nay, neither of these. But the unpresuming flag of a little nation in the mid-waves of the vast Pacific, utterly unknown to Europe till within the last century. And as the tiny craft pursued her way up the beautiful Gironde, amid the bristling array of telescopes, the rustic peasant shook his silvery locks doubtfully and solemnly, while the man of the day who had become accustomed to the magnificent wonders of the passing panorama of life, regarded it as but one of the marvels of this marvelous age.

The specimens of Hawaiian cabinet woods taken by the Don Quixote, were tried and their good qualities and beautiful appearance highly appreciated. But while, during the great excitement and changes of the day, no considerable use will probably be made of them in France, the time may not be distant when exports may be made that will form an item in the table of native products of no insignificant value.

The oil by the Don Quixote sold remarkably well, bringing from \$17 to \$19 per barrel for what it should be recollected, however, that it was taken, originally, in a French bottom.

It is understood that some plate ordered for H. B. Majesty, has been received by the Don Quixote; as also, a well selected assortment of goods for this market.

His Excellency Governor Kekuanooa, returned yesterday in His Majesty's Yacht, *Kam. III*, from Kauai. His absence has been protracted to three months, and we are happy to learn that His Excellency returns, with his lady, in excellent health. His absence has been felt, and we are glad to see him again at his responsible post of Governor of Oahu.

The Yacht was four days in making the passage from Kauai.

We learn from His Excellency, that his brigantine, the *Emelia*, which had been ashore on that island, has been repaired, effectually, and that it has cost him \$1,200 for the repairs.

The Don Quixote sailed from Bordeaux on Dec. 23. Arrived at Valparaiso on the April 5, in 105 days; remained 15 days, and sailed on the 21st and had a passage of 42 days to these islands. She has been absent about 13 months.—The bark *Connecticut* hence 74 days had not arrived at Valparaiso when the Don Quixote sailed.

It has pleased their Majesties, the King and Queen to make known their pleasure to visit *Her Britannic Majesty's Ship Amphitrite*, on Monday next, in the forenoon.

Rossi, Prime Minister of the Pope, who was assassinated in Rome, was married to the daughter of Guizot, late Protestant Minister of Louis Philippe.

SOUTH AMERICA.—By latest advices we learn that great excitement prevailed on the Atlantic coast of South America in regard to California, and that Brazil was likely to be fully represented at the El Dorado. More than 2,000 persons had departed from Rio, in various directions for San Francisco.

BOLIVIA.—A new insurrection had broken out in this distracted Republic, and Gen. Bolivian, who had previously been expelled for political offences, had been recalled. He embarked, on the 18th April, on board the French war steamer, *Coccy*, and had sailed for Cobija; but more recent intelligence received from Peru, renders it highly probable that he would not be received on his arrival. We await, with interest, further news of this movement in Bolivia. The South American Republics are greatly deficient in an educated and intelligent people. And on the principle that prevention is better than cure, the patriots of those, and in fact all other nations, should not be negligently in the application of means to secure the education of the entire people, to a certain extent. An efficient system of education, will be found much less expensive than standing armies to quell insurrection, or prisons and police to punish crimes.

The last of the Pacific Steamers, the *Panama*, had arrived at Valparaiso in 31 days from Rio Janeiro, and sailed for Panama, about the 16th of April.

In CHILE, the question of the privileges to be enjoyed by foreigners in Chile, was exciting some discussion. We have no dates from Europe or the United States so late as those contained in the Lima paper brought by the *Amphitrite*, from which we extracted so largely last week.

On the 31st of March H. B. M. S. *Asia* and *Champion* sailed on a cruise, and returned on the 9th of April.

On the 9th of April the French ship of war *Loire*, of 18 guns, arrived from Tahiti in 69 days.

PERU.—An attempt had been made at revolt in Lima, which was discovered and put down; the leaders being made prisoners. The Council of State was in open disagreement with the President, having protested against Gen. San Roman's imprisonment. An extra session of Congress was called for the 1st of May.—*Neighbor*.

## Original Correspondence.

Editor Polynesian:—

MY DEAR SIR,—It is my hope that the columns of the Polynesian will be enriched, the present year, by communications from gentlemen residing at different stations, and occupying various posts of observation on the islands. I say enriched, and I mean just what I say, for no one can expect that an editor, residing at Honolulu, can look abroad and give the public an idea of what is taking place on Hawaii or Kauai. The idea is preposterous. I am sure that you are not too wise to be informed of things which lie beyond your reach of vision, nor too strong to be helped. Your friends can essentially aid you in making your paper all you would have it to be, an interesting sheet to all who may welcome it to their houses, especially to those of other lands into whose hands it may occasionally or stately fall. I am greatly mistaken if a right good Sandwich Islands paper, conducted on correct principles, with judgment and taste, will not, ere long, be a welcome visitor in every part of the United States, and in other countries. But more on this subject at some future time.

That I may incite our common friends to aid you at once in the good work to which you are devoting your energies, and that I may fulfil my promise to write you on reaching my station, I will commence at once and send a single sheet by an opportunity which now presents.

Allow me to say a few words respecting our voyage to Lahaina. We sailed in the *Halifio*, eight adults and fourteen children. Perhaps the rule "always to speak well of the bridge that carries you safely over" applies to the sailing of a vessel in which you happen to be a passenger. Still it may be lawful, and of some benefit to successors in the traveling line, to give our experience in the matter. The owners, I believe, did all they could to make the vessel clean and comfortable, and she was decently clean. Still she had been a molasses carrier for a long time, and was consequently foul, and as the winds were strong and mostly ahead, nearly all suffered from sea sickness. We found her a slow vessel, unable to beat with any facility; so we left Lanai to the windward. About 5 o'clock, P. M., of Thursday, 48 hours from Honolulu, we opened upon Lahainaluna, and expected to be at anchor in a few hours. But we were disappointed. During the night we were beating between Lanai and Kahoolawe, and did not reach Lahaina till nearly noon on Friday.—Thursday night, while heading towards Kahoolawe, we distinctly saw the fires of Kilauea, or perhaps of the new volcano on Mauna Loa.—What a splendid exhibition of the power of God have we in the kindling up of those fires which thus throw their light across the gloom of more than one hundred miles. What he has in store for these islands—for the Hawaiian race—for all who reside on these shores, who can tell! We do truly stand on a precarious spot—on the verge of a volcano. Still we will confide in Him who hath sent us hither. He can save us and the people from the fires of *Pele*, and from other fires which, unless extinguished, will consume the nation.

On reaching Lahaina, I found things much as usual. The heat was exceedingly oppressive, and but for the verdure and the shade of the many trees which beautify and improve the place, it would be a severe trial to reside there. You can easily guess that business is sufficiently dull in Lahaina. One good store, and a few small shops, chiefly occupied by Chinamen, are all I saw. What little thrift there was eighteen months since, seems to have withered beneath the gold fever of California. I was struck with the appearance of desolation in many places where a short time since considerable business was being transacted. Still, I have hope of Lahaina. All in good time there will be a different state of things at that place. The fleet of whalers had all dispersed before my arrival.—Mr. Swinton's vessel, the *S. S.*, recently from San Francisco, and one or two small craft were all that lay in the roads. Many of the natives of Lahaina having heard by the *S. S.* of the arrival of their friends at California, were fierce to leave all and go to digging for gold. Would that they could be persuaded to dig for gold at the islands, where they can find it fully fast enough, and find it with comparative safety to their health and morals.

Of my trip from Lahaina to Oahu, thence to Waialua, by the mountain pass of Kilos, thence home, I will give you some account in my next.

Yours with affection, J. S. GREEN.

Makawao, Maui, May 28, 1849.

For the Polynesian.

WHAT IS LIBERTY OF OPINION?—Liberty of sentiment seems to be the peculiar demand of this age. Every man is bound by reason and common sense to be liberal in his views of other people's opinions. That is, in the free exercise of his own, he must be willing that his fellow should enjoy the same freedom. But with becoming dignity, let him take every requisite precaution, aided by the numerous helps in the reach of all in this day, to establish himself in what is true, remembering that "Truth is Eternal" and not subject to the opinions of finite understandings.

Freedom of opinion and of action, so far as it respects one's fellow men is the right of one man as well as another; but therefore let no one think his freedom affected by the exercise of the same right in another, neither let him knowingly interfere with this right through other means than the influence of reason; or presenting the thought in a different light, let him not in a dictatorial manner impose his views upon others, when fair argument fails to convince. This is the only true ground of liberty of opinion, whether it be in matters of religion, politics, or other subjects of common parlance. "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." This he may be and still respect the reasoning of an antagonist.

But there are many who make a demand for liberty, who seem to have but limited views of what it consists in; and it is much to be feared, that they require that of others which they themselves know not how to exercise. Take as an illustration the case of a profane man. He deems it a galling hardship to be importuned to forsake so foolish a habit, and become a lover of truth and righteousness; he thinks him illiberal who urges upon him these duties, and the certain, inevitable consequences of a neglect of them; while at the same time, almost without exception, he imposes his vile, and debasing accents, upon the

ears of all without self-respect or respect for others. Such a liberality makes a mock at the greatest and best interests of society and of man as a being destined to immortality. To establish it, which it is well nigh done in some circles, would be the banishment of every correct principle of justice to ones self, and the Being who hath created man.

Can it be a question, who, has the greater right, he who would perpetuate an acknowledged evil, by both word and example, or he who would in the same manner give his influence in favor of every acknowledged virtue? No certainly not! Then why not advocate virtues with impunity? The difference between right and wrong course of action is never more distinctly seen than when it is observed that doing right develops and quickens the moral perceptions while the contrary course blunts the mind and inclines it to "love darkness rather than light. May a man do wrong, unrepented in a land where the claims of Christianity are known, with the plea of liberality on the part of others on his lips, because they denounce, not him, but his manner of life and principles of action?

One thought is sufficient to stop the mouth of such a one. The principles of truth are unchangeable, and so are those rules which enable the mind to discern between right and wrong.—So if one thinks he may indulge in a course of life and action with entire disregard of those principles or rules, let him remember the eternal nature of Truth, and that he cannot with impunity judge that to be false which nevertheless is true. The true principles of liberty require that one should be "rooted and grounded in the truth." He who is set free by truth is free indeed. The diligent inquirer may always find it, but the slothful cannot, although it be written in the fairest lines. The diligent pursuit of truth elevates the mind, and enlarges the soul so that he who was once troubled on account of the illiberality of others, when enabled to come to the knowledge of it, finds his supreme enjoyment in a contemplation. On the contrary that system of moral philosophy which teaches that there is no standard of faith and action but the various opinions entertained among men engenders the very worst feature of illiberality. Let those therefore who wish to avoid its evils use the means in their power to gain that wisdom which setteth free, and they will have no further occasion to complain of the illiberality of others. H. W.

Editor of the Polynesian:—

Observing the following advertisement in the *Alta California*, published at San Francisco, I take the liberty of sending it to you for publication, thinking it may be interesting to many of your readers:—

"NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA EXPRESS."

Haven and Livingston, in connection with Livingston, Wells & Co., announce their readiness to receive parcels, packages, gold dust and bullion, to forward to the principal places in the interior of the Atlantic States and ports in the Pacific. Drafts on any part of the Union supplied.

HAVEN & LIVINGSTON.

Those who have enjoyed the advantages of Livingston, Wells & Co.'s Express will appreciate the convenience that is afforded by the establishing of the above agency, but as there are others who are not familiar with them, they can be interested in knowing that there are no express lines over all of the principal thoroughfares of the United States, and that by depositing a package with Haven and Livingston at San Francisco, they will undertake to deliver it at any principal town in the Union, subject to the order of the person to whom it may be addressed, upon the payment of reasonable charges on delivery. And so in return, they will purchase by order, or receive any package in the U. S., and undertake to deliver it at San Francisco, subject to like reasonable charges. By the aid, therefore, of Messrs. Haven and Livingston at San Francisco, a system of direct transportation of small parcels, by Panama, is already established between California and almost every part of the Union; and I hope very soon, by the appointment of an agent at this place, (which has been requested,) Honolulu may be in like communication, and enjoy similar advantages. A. B. B.

Foreign Intelligence.

Further extracts from our foreign files.

United States.

Bills had been introduced to Congress for establishing a government in California. But the question of the extension of Slavery stood in the way. The Gold news had wrought wonderfully on the minds of the people. Some even asserted that half a million are on their way out, though this is probably an exaggeration. The various papers raise up their hands in a sort of undefined wonder at the gilded accounts. Last month 180 vessels were coming out; now the number is modestly placed at 300. An English newspaper, the *Spectator*, suggests the fear that the El Dorado will be the source of great evil, even ruin, to the "model Republic."

The steamer *Panama* had been detained at longer, and was to sail Feb. 20.

The Legislature of New York had sent resolutions to Congress urging that slavery should not be extended to California and New Mexico; and also that a law be passed putting an end to the sale of slaves in the District of Columbia. The debates on this were very warm. A motion was made to print the resolutions, in the Senate, and opposed strenuously. Much was said and that for the ninety ninth time, about dissolution of the Union. However, the motion passed by a vote of 45 to 6.

In the House a motion had been made to extend the U. S. revenue laws to California; he had not passed. A resolution had also passed the House that a committee be instructed to prepare a bill forbidding traffic in slaves in the district; afterwards it was reconsidered.

The papers are filled with letters about the gold mine. Some cases of imposture are noted in which brass filings have been sold for gold dust, an account is given of one youth who had obtained \$17,000, but from the admixture of pyrites and mica it afforded only \$26,000.

The New York Herald gives a list of many associations formed for migration to the gold regions; which are in all 47 in number, having an average of 50 members each. Vessels were sent to Vera Cruz, Chagres and the voyage around the Cape. Almost every state in the Union named as sending some of its citizens, even from Vermont they are moving. The universality of the movement is amazing. Numbers are taking the land route also.

Two applications for leave to construct a railroad have been made, one at Chagres, the other at Tehuantepec. The former it is rumored has been granted; and forty persons have already landed at Panama to make the survey of the route.—*Neighbor*.

France.

Louis Napoleon had taken the oath and the chair of the French presidency. He had obtained 5,424,206 votes. After taking the office he